

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 06953 251643Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 L-03 CIAE-00  
INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 /053 W  
-----054690 260204Z /66

R 251610Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5466  
INFO USIA WASHDC  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USMISSION NATO  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
USMISSION USBERLIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: GE, PGOV, IT  
SUBJECT: GDR TREATMENT OF KAPPLER CASE

1. ALL GDR MEDIA HAVE GIVEN PROMINENT COVERAGE TO THE  
ESCAPE OF FORMER SS COLONEL KAPPLER FROM ROME AND THE  
SUBSEQUENT REACTION IN ITALY AND WEST GERMANY. CITING  
KAPPLER'S "ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION BY NEO-NAZIS IN THE  
FRG," THE PRESS HERE HAS USED THE INCIDENT TO  
REEMPHASIZE AND REINFORCE ONE OF ITS MOST REGULAR AND  
CONTINUING THEMES, THAT THE FRG IS A HAVEN FOR FORMER  
OFFICIALS OF THE THIRD REICH AND THAT NAZI INFLUENCE  
AND TENDENCIES IN WEST GERMAN SOCIETY AND GOVERNMENT ARE  
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PAGE 02 BERLIN 06953 251643Z

STRONG AND INCREASING. SPECIAL EMPHASIS HAS BEEN GIVEN  
TO ALLEGED NAZI INDOCTRINATION IN THE BUNDESWEHR, WHERE  
THE INFLUENCE OF FORMER SS AND WAFFEN-SS ELEMENTS IS  
CLAIMED TO BE STRONG.

2. NEUES DEUTSCHLAND OF 25 AUGUST REPORTS THE FIRST  
GDR ACTION ON THE KAPPLER CASE BEYOND THE NORMAL SCATHING

PRESS COVERAGE. ND REPORTS THAT THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR WAS GIVEN A NOTE IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ON 24 AUGUST EXPRESSING THE "READINESS OF THE GDR TO SEARCH FOR THE WAR CRIMINAL KAPPLER AS WELL AS THE PERSONS OF THIRD STATES SUSPECTED OF HAVING COOPERATED IN HIS ESCAPE." LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

THE NOTE CITES UN RESOLUTION 3074 (XXVIII) OF 3 DECEMBER 1973 ON THE TREATMENT OF WAR CRIMINALS IN THIS REGARD. WEST BERLIN RADIO HAS ALSO REPORTED THAT THE GDR HAS OFFERED ITALY ITS SERVICES AS A MEDIATOR IN THE CASE, ALTHOUGH THE QUESTION WAS NATURALLY RAISED AS TO WHAT THE GDR COULD ACTUALLY DO.

3. COMMENT: THE KAPPLER CASE IS A "NATURAL" FOR GDR MEDIA; AND THE REGIME APPARENTLY BELIEVES THAT PLAYING UP THE ISSUE WILL NOT COMPLICATE THE START OF THE "SOUNDINGS" WITH BONN. BOLEN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, POW, WAR CRIMES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, FUGITIVES  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Subject:** GDR TREATMENT OF KAPPLER CASE  
**TAGS:** PGOV, SOPN, GC, IT, (KAPPLER, HERBERT)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009